

**I CLAIM:**

1           1.           A system for purchasing lottery tickets over the Internet comprising:  
2                       at least one server; and  
3                       at least one computer connected to the at least one server via the Internet;  
4                       wherein the at least server hosts at least one virtual group of lottery ticket  
5           purchasers, the at least one server storing group information for the virtual group;  
6                       wherein the at least one server stores lottery information about at least one  
7           lottery;  
8                       wherein the at least one server causes the lottery tickets to be purchased for  
9           the purchasers according to the group information and the lottery information; and  
10                      wherein the at least one server communicates results of the purchase of lottery  
11           tickets to the purchasers on the basis of the group information.

1           2.           The system of claim 1 wherein the group information comprises one or more  
2           of the number of purchasers, telephone numbers, fax numbers, cellular telephone numbers,  
3           e-mail addresses and biographical information of the purchasers.

1           3.           The system of claim 1 wherein the lottery information comprises one or more  
2           of the lottery type, purchase volume, purchase interval, lottery number selection, tracking  
3           interval, payment method, distribution and notification method for the virtual group.



11 to be changed.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the group information includes one or more  
2 of the purchaser's telephone numbers, fax numbers, cellular telephone numbers, e-mail  
3 addresses and biographical information of the purchasers.

1 10. The method of claim 8 wherein the lottery information includes one or more  
2 of the lottery type, purchase volume, purchase interval, lottery number selection, tracking  
3 interval, payment method, distribution and notification method for the virtual group,

1 11. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of creating a chat room for  
2 the virtual group where the purchasers discuss the lottery tickets with each other over the  
3 Internet.

1 12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:

2 (e) causing the at least one computer to be connected to the at least one  
3 server over the Internet;

4 (f) determining whether any of the purchasers is online over the Internet;

5 (g) providing instant messaging if any of the purchasers is online; and

6 (h) accessing the chat room.

1 13. The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:

(i) determining whether a change has been requested for the group information;

(j) causing the group information to be changed, if a change has been requested in step (i);

(k) determining whether a change has been requested for the lottery information; and

(l) causing the lottery information to be changed, if a change has been requested in step (k).

14. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of authenticating access in step (h).

15. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of authenticating change in steps (i) and (k).

16. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of selecting one of the lottery tickets and displaying information corresponding to the selected lottery ticket.

17. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of communicating results communicates information on the purchases and information on whether any of the purchases resulted in a winning ticket.

1        18.            The method of claim 8 wherein the step of communicating is by one of  
2        electronic mail or posting results on an Internet website.

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